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Governor

# Alabama Medicaid Agency

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MIKE LEWIS  
Commissioner

May 15, 2001

## PROVIDER NOTICE: 01-09

TO: All Patient 1<sup>st</sup> PMPs

RE: Patient 1<sup>st</sup> Changes

Effective July 1, 2001, the following program changes will be implemented in the Patient 1<sup>st</sup> Program. These changes are the result of the recommendations of the Patient 1<sup>st</sup> Advisory Council (PAC). This council is representative of all major physician specialty groups and was formed by the Agency to assist with defining program policy based on identified needs.

1. Physician services provided during an inpatient stay will not require PMP referral.
2. Hospitals will be required to notify PMPs of patients on their panel that have been admitted to the hospital for which the PMP was not the admitting physician. Notification will be made via a copy of the admission face sheet and is required to be sent within 72 hours of the admission.
3. Referrals will now be required in writing. This recommendation came as a result of the need for documentation of these visits and to ensure that treating physicians get the necessary information to file their claims to Medicaid. In cases where a referral cannot be obtained prior to treatment being rendered, the PMP is required to send a written referral within 72 hours of oral approval.
4. The Patient 1<sup>st</sup> referral forms have been revised to include both Patient 1<sup>st</sup> and EPSDT and may be used for other type of referrals as well. The intent was to create one referral form that could be used for any type referral. The referral form is available via Medicaid's webpage and can be utilized electronically. The form can be adapted to include specific information and can be sent to other providers via email as well, thereby eliminating the need for paper copies to be given to the patient.
5. Community mental health providers will be required to notify PMPs of their patients who may receive treatment in their facility.

The Agency and the PAC have worked for several months now to identify areas for improvement to enhance and support the overall concept of the medical home. These changes represent a proactive approach to those areas.

Workshops are being planned throughout the State to further educate PMPs about all aspects of the program and provide further information about these specific changes. Workshop information is attached. In addition to the workshops, the Alabama Medicaid Provider Manual will be updated effective July 1, 2001, further explaining program changes. If you have any questions regarding these policy changes, please call Medical Services Customer Service at (334) 242-5524.

Michael Lewis  
Commissioner

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